

# THEATRE GLOSSARY

- Acoustics** - quality of a room in respect to transmission of sound  
**Action** - that which happens on stage to hold the attention of the audience  
**Acts** - major sections of a play  
**Audition** - tryout for a part in a production  
**Backdrop** - painted curtain without fullness  
**Backstage** - area behind scenery not visible to audience  
**Blackout** - all stage lights go out simultaneously  
**Blocking** - planned movement for characters  
**Call backs** - a second audition  
**Cast** - group of people selected to portray characters  
**Center stage** - area in center of stage  
**Characterization** - putting together all facets of a character  
**Climax** - high point of action  
**Company** - everyone associated with a production  
**Conflict** - dramatic opposition  
**Dialogue** - conversation between two people  
**Diction** - selection and pronunciation of words, clarity of speech  
**Director** - one who brings all the elements of a play together  
**Downstage** - area closest to audience  
**Dress rehearsal** - same as performance without an audience  
**Elements of drama**
  - plot** - storyline
  - character** - person or animal
  - theme** - basic idea of play
  - language** - text, script, dialogue, and non verbal language (dance, gesture, and emotions)
  - spectacle** - sets, costumes, props, lights**Flats** - canvas covered wooden frames used for scenery  
**Monologue** - one person speaking  
**Playwright** - person who write a play  
**Producer** - backs a show, hires director and production staff, sets budget, and pays bills  
**Projection** - how well the voice carries to the audience  
**Prompt** - prompter helps actors remember their lines  
**Royalties** - monies paid for permission to stage a play  
**Scene** - small section of play  
**Script** - printed copy of play  
**Stage right/left** - area to actors right and left as s/he faces the audience  
**Strike** - dismantle, take away  
**Upstage** - area furthest away from audience, toward the backstage wall  
**Voice** - combination of qualities an actor uses such as articulation, phrasing, pronunciation, etc.